



# MOHAWK HUDSON LAND CONSERVANCY

*Conserving and Connecting Communities*

425 KENWOOD AVE | 518-436-6346  
DELMAR, NY 12054 | [WWW.MOHAWKHUDSON.ORG](http://WWW.MOHAWKHUDSON.ORG)



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CONTACT: Carrie Stickan, Communications and Outreach Coordinator  
(518) 436-6346 / [carrie@mohawkhudson.org](mailto:carrie@mohawkhudson.org)

**ART on the Rail Trail Presents Birds on the Rail Trail  
A New Addition to MHLC's Annual Summer Hike-a-thon Scavenger Hunt  
July 1 - 31, 2022**

Delmar, NY—Art on the Rail Trail (ART) is hosting its first scavenger hunt along the Helderberg-Hudson Rail Trail. This event coincides with Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy's Summer Hike-a-thon Scavenger Hunt, which is occurring at all its preserves. These on-your-own events will be happening for the entire month of July.

Twelve artists have contributed at least 18 original bird-themed sculptures that will be installed along the 9-mile Albany County Helderberg-Hudson Rail Trail for visitors to find. Located in plain sight, on trees and fencing, these whimsical creatures and their habitats will be accompanied by QR codes that offer directions on how to participate in the 'hunt.'

The birds hidden on the trails of MHLC's preserves are wood cutouts that have been hand-painted by MHLC volunteers. There is one bird at each of MHLC's 22 preserves. Participants can register for free via the Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy's website to receive a list of clues.

Registered participants who submit a photo of at least one of the pieces, will win a gift card for a free ice cream scoop from event sponsor Stewart's Shops as well as an entry into a drawing to win one of the pieces that are being donated by the artists and a birdhouse from Wildbird Junction in Delmar.

To celebrate the month-long scavenger hunt, ART will host two **Woodcut Painting Workshops on Saturday July 9, 2022, at 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. at the Albany County Rail Trail Pavilion in Voorheesville.** Community members can join Art on the Rail Trail for a special Woodcut Painting Workshop with local artists Grace Lang and Ramiro Davaro-Comas. Workshop participants will paint a bird-themed woodcut figure to bring home! The event is free and open to children of all ages, and all supplies are provided. Advance registration is required.

To register for the Scavenger Hunt and the Woodcut Painting Workshops go to the Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy's events web page at [www.mohawkhudson.org/events](http://www.mohawkhudson.org/events).

Follow ART on the Rail Trail on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/artontherailtrail) and Instagram for the latest happenings and more! Questions? Email the ART committee at [art@mohawkhudson.org](mailto:art@mohawkhudson.org) or call Julie Sasso at 518-330-5598.

ART on the Rail Trail (a sub-committee of the Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy) was formed in 2017, with a mission to support and improve the Albany County Helderberg-Hudson Rail Trail, through the installation of art along the trail. The Rail Trail is a nine-mile paved multi-use path that spans from South Pearl Street in Albany to the Village of Voorheesville and is enjoyed by thousands of visitors each year. To date, ART has placed five murals and a multi-piece installation along the trail as well as hosted four community chalk art events. For more information about ART, check out [www.mohawkhudson.org/art](http://www.mohawkhudson.org/art).

The Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy (MHLC) is a nonprofit conservation organization working to preserve the natural, scenic, agricultural, and cultural landscapes in Albany, Schenectady, and Montgomery counties. Since its founding in 1992, the Conservancy has protected more than 13,000 acres of land, including over 2,500 acres open to the public for hiking, cross-country skiing, and other educational and recreational opportunities. To learn more, visit [www.mohawkhudson.org](http://www.mohawkhudson.org).

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In addition to this press release, please find the attached images:

*Bird sculpture from found materials by local artist John Smolinsky featured in the ART Scavenger Hunt.*

*Scavenger Hunt sculpture by Susan Sheridan.*

*Hand-painted birdhouses featured in the ART Scavenger Hunt.*

*Look for hand-painted bird cutouts at MHLC Preserves throughout the month of July.*

*MHLC volunteers painted bird cutouts featured at the preserves.*